

Sheree Baldwin-Muhammad  
Kindergarten Teacher at New Beginnings Family Academy  
divinecreations0314@gmail.com  
2039536086  
Bridgeport Public Schools

My name is Sheree Baldwin Muhammad, I live in New Haven, but teach in the city of Bridgeport. I have been an educator for 30 years either in early childcare or elementary education. I am currently a Kindergarten Teacher at New Beginnings Family Academy. I am writing today in support of Raised Bill 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut.

As a Connecticut public school educator, I have seen firsthand the impact that funding inequity has had on my students. I have taught in New Haven and Bridgeport within the public school system but also have worked in after schools and early childcare families within the public schools in Westport, Stamford and Fairfield. There is a big difference between the resources available to students in more affluent towns in comparison to the inner cities, especially in New Haven and Bridgeport. The school facilities in Westport, parts of Stamford and Fairfield are state of the art with access to technology, extra curricular activities and text books that are often limited or nonexistent in inner city schools. It is my hope that all children would have access to the resources they need in order to succeed. Budget cuts and inadequate funding has caused educational gaps across the state.

That's why I believe this bill must be passed. Funding inequities across and within our schools are preventing our students--particularly English Language Learners, students of color and children from low-income families--from getting the excellent education they deserve. Connecticut students have faced unprecedented hardship over the past year, and cannot wait multiple years to attend a fully-funded school. It is in the best interest of the students that this bill be passed to address education funding and racial equity.